

TERMS—ONE DOLLAR PER ANNUM, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

THE African Repository

Vol. L.]

FEBRUARY, 1874.

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American Colonization Society.

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nati, Ohio.

EXPEDITION FOR LIBERIA.

To industrious and worthy people of color desirous of removing to Liberia, THE AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY will give a passage and subsistence on the voyage—made in about forty days—and support for the first six months after landing. Single adult persons get ten acres, and families twenty-five acres of land. These are all gifts—never to be repaid. Those wishing to remove to Liberia should make application, addressed to William Coppinger, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer of the American Colonization Society, 450 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D. C.

THE AFRICAN REPOSITORY.

Published on the first of every month, is the official organ of THE AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY. It is intended to be a record of the Society's proceedings, and of the movements made in all parts of the world for the civilization and evangelization of Africa. It is sent without charge, when requested, to the Officers of the Society and of its Auxiliaries, to Life Members, and to Annual Contributors of ten dollars and upwards to the funds of this Society. To subscribers it is supplied at One Dollar per annum, payable in advance. Remittances for it should be made to William Coppinger, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer of the American Colonization Society, 450 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D. C.

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WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY, 1874.

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**FIFTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AMERICAN
COLONIZATION SOCIETY.**

PRESENTED JANUARY 20, 1874.

OBITUARY.

It becomes the painful duty of the American Colonization Society, at the commencement of its Fifty-seventh Annual Report, to offer its tribute of sorrow and affection to the memory of the late Rev. WILLIAM McLAIN, D. D., who departed this life at his residence in this city, on the 13th of February, in the full triumphs of the Christian faith.

Dr. McLain was born in Champaign county, Ohio, August 8, 1806; graduated at Miami University in 1831; studied theology at Andover and New Haven; was installed as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Washington, D. C., in January, 1837, and resigned on account of declining health, June 9, 1840. He performed an acceptable agency service for this Society in August, 1839, and again in the following summer, in the State of Virginia. He was appointed "Clerk of the Executive Committee," December 18, 1840. Thus began those very valuable labors for the cause which he zealously and faithfully performed to within a few days of his death.

Dr. McLain was elected Treasurer, January 19, 1843, and Financial Secretary and Treasurer of the Society, January 17, 1858, the duties of which he discharged with great ability. He devised and executed measures for raising funds, chartered and equipped vessels, provided for and dispatched thousands of emigrants, and managed our affairs in Liberia. In a word, for thirty-two years, no one did more than he in guiding the counsels, defending the principles, and conducting the operations of the Society.

To the members of the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, and to the Executive officers of the Society, the decease of Dr. McLain was a personal and deeply-felt bereavement, severing not only official relations, but warm ties of individual affection. To the cause at large, it is a loss which seems almost irreparable. His name will be held in lasting remembrance.

Since the last Report was presented, intelligence has been received of the death of five Vice Presidents of the Society.

The first was the Rt. Rev. CHARLES P. McILVAINE, D. D., LL. D., Bishop of the P. Episcopal Church in Ohio, whose admirable symmetry of character, powerful eloquence, and high administrative ability, won for him the confidence and love of all who knew him. The Bishop was personally acquainted with the Rev. Robert Finley, D. D., and while rector of Christ Church, Georgetown, D. C., from 1820 to 1825, was associated with Bushrod Washington, Elias B. Caldwell, Charles Fenton Mercer, Francis Scott Key, and other illustrious founders and patrons of the Society, and was ever himself one of its warmest friends and supporters. He presided for many years over the Ohio Auxiliary, and had been a Vice President of this Society since 1845.

Another Vice President was RICHARD HOFF, Esq., of Georgia, elected in 1857. Fifty of the emigrants sent in 1854, were liberated by him, and he gave us three thousand dollars toward the expenses of their passage and establishment in Liberia. He also distributed nearly a like amount among them at their embarkation. Though at a ripe age, his death will be mourned by thousands who held him in affectionate regard.

Among men of all nations and all callings, wherever the name of GERARD RALSTON, Esq., is known, it will be remembered and cherished as the name of "one who loved his fellow-man." Mr. Ralston's affection for this cause dated back to the time when Mills and Burgess went to the Coast of Africa to select a locality for the establishment of a negro nationality. He was one of the founders of the Pennsylvania Colonization Society, which was organized in 1826, was its first Treasurer, and not only continued active in its management while in Philadelphia, but he contributed frequently and liberally to its treasury. He was elected a Vice President of this Society in

1840. Mr. Ralston went to England over a third of a century ago as the representative of the mercantile firm of which he was then a member, and though he never returned to the land of his birth, he constantly evinced a feeling of sympathy and love for it and its citizens, many of whom were welcomed and hospitably entertained by him in London. As Consul-General of Liberia, in Europe, for the past twenty-five years, he rendered services, without compensation, which were valuable and important; including the negotiation of nearly if not all the treaties recognizing its independence. Kind in spirit, gentle in manner, after an active and useful life of seventy-five years, he rests from his labors and his memory is blessed.

Another friend of African Colonization, whose decease we mourn, is the Rev. JOHN EARLY, D. D., Bishop of the Methodist E. Church, South, who at the early age of twenty, began his ministerial labors among the slave population in his native county—Bedford—Virginia, and was ever devoted to the religious interests of the colored race. He was elected a Vice President of this Society in 1849.

Hon. PETER D. VROOM, of New Jersey, was a long-tried helper in every good cause. He held several important and prominent public stations at home and abroad, in all which he served with pre-eminent ability and elevation of character. He was elected a Vice President of this Society in 1838, yet he had been, for many years, its firm friend, aiding it by the advocacy of its principles and by gifts for its promotion. Few men have manifested a more abiding interest in its welfare, or held in higher appreciation the work it was doing both for this continent and for Africa.

FINANCES.

The balance in the treasury, January 1, 1873 was.....	\$586 31
The receipts for the succeeding twelve months have been—	
From donations.....	15,358 75
From legacies.....	14,557 47
From all other sources.....	5,419 49
Making the resources of the year.....	\$35,922 02
Of this sum there has been paid, as follows:	
For passage and support of emigrants.....	\$9,215 16
For borrowed money returned.....	11,000 00
For other objects.....	15,473 37
	35,688 53
Leaving a balance in the treasury, January 1, 1874..	\$233 49

From this statement it appears that our entire receipts during the year 1873 exceed those of the previous year by nearly \$2,000; and that the receipts from donations exceed those of the previous year by \$4,754.96. This is gratifying and encouraging, when we take into view the fact that it has been accomplished against special adverse influences occasioned by the financial panic, and with a reduction of agency expenses.

OFFICERS.

Rev. John K. Converse has continued his indefatigable labors for the Society in the Northern New England States.

Rev. D. C. Haynes, after three years' service as District Secretary for Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, resigned his position, which took effect in August.

Rev. Thomas H. Pearne, D. D., entered upon his duties November 1, as District Secretary for the States west of the Alleghanies and south of the Potomac, with headquarters at Cincinnati. His large experience in public life, added to other rare gifts and qualifications, will, it is hoped, enable him to impress the people of his immense district with the claims of this Society upon their sympathies and support.

The duties of Treasurer and Financial Secretary were, soon after the death of Rev. Dr. McLain, added to those of the Corresponding Secretary, by whom they have since been performed.

EXPEDITION.

Our customary fall expedition was by the barque "Jasper," which sailed from New York on Friday, November 28, with seventy-three emigrants, well provided for on the voyage and for six months after their arrival. They were only a fraction of the applicants for settlement in Liberia; but they were quite as many as we had the means at command to provide for, in the existing monetary condition of the country.

Six of the emigrants were from Jacksonville, Florida, to settle at Arthington; thirty-three were from Strawberry Plains, Tenn., to locate at Warnersville, Junk river; and thirty-four were from Hawkinsville, Georgia, for Brewerville. They were conveyed to the port of embarkation in two companies: one of thirty-three persons, by railroad and the steamer "Isaac

Bell," from Norfolk; and, the other, of forty persons, by railroad and the steamer "San Jacinto," from Savannah. They consisted principally of families, a goodly number of whom went to join relatives and acquaintances in that Republic, and from whom they had received letters inviting them to come. With but few exceptions, they had not reached middle life: seven being under two years old, twenty five were two and not twelve years of age, and forty-one were twelve years old and upwards. Fifteen of the adult males were farmers. Twenty-one were reported as communicants in evangelical churches, two of whom were ministers of the Gospel.

We sent at the same time nearly five hundred dollars' worth of school-books and supplies for our own and other schools; also Arabic and English Bibles and Testaments, valued at about one hundred and seventy-five dollars, presented by the the American Bible Society; and fifty dollars worth of publications of an elementary character, appropriated by the American Sunday-School Union.

The "Jasper" also took a coffee huller, which was patented and shipped by Messrs. Edward S. Morris and T. T. Woodruff, of Philadelphia, Pa., and an engine of fifteen horse-power to run it. This machine, it is stated, can clean, ready for use, a bushel of coffee every minute. Its successful operation promises to open a new era in the history of the young Republic. As an article of commerce, the "Liberia-Mocha" coffee, by reason of its quality being equal if not superior to any, is likely to become one of the most valuable products of that country.

Emigration to Liberia every year under the auspices of this Society has been uninterrupted for the last fifty-three years. Those sent in 1873 make the number colonized since the war to be three thousand and sixty, and a total from the beginning of fifteen thousand and forty-eight; exclusive of five thousand seven hundred and twenty-two recaptured Africans, which we induced and enabled the Government of the United States to settle in Liberia, making a grand total of twenty thousand seven hundred and seventy persons to whom the Society has given homes in Africa.

APPLICATIONS.

The past year has again afforded evidence that the disposition among the people of color to emigrate to Liberia is increasing. In the course of a single month the applications for passage comprised between five and six hundred persons. When our expedition left in November, there were enrolled upwards of three thousand voluntary and unsolicited applicants for settlement, some of whom are now pressing their requests and are anxious to know if they can go, in order to guard against making arrangements which may prevent their going at all.

With an earnest desire to benefit themselves, and to confer a blessing upon their race in Africa, as their letters show, many seek a home in Liberia, where they can at once become land-owners, and find the avenues of emolument and honor all open to the deserving and aspiring, without let or hindrance.

ARTHINGTON.

The barque "Jasper," mentioned in our last Report to have sailed with one hundred and fifty emigrants, arrived at Monrovia January 1, after a pleasant passage of forty days, "all well." Letters to a recent date assure us that they were generally more than satisfied with the change, and that they were occupying their own houses and cultivating their own lands.

As a goodly number of the people recently sent have located at the new interior settlement of Arthington, the following account of a visit to it by the editor of the "New Era," published at Monrovia, cannot but be gratifying to their well-wishers and to the friends of Africa:

"Arthington is situated in a hilly and uneven section of country, about four miles northwest of Millsburg, and about two miles northward and interiorward from the St. Paul's river. The first settlers landed in December, 1869, and removed to the then forest in March, 1870. These immigrants were, as is generally the case since the war, quite poor, but an intelligent, active, industrious, and enterprising set of men. They immediately went to work, and have done as well as any peo-

ple could do with small means in similar circumstances. They cut down the forest, cleared the bush, and soon a pleasant little village rose upon the hills, with school-house and church, as the germs of advancing civilization.

"We were happily disappointed in seeing these people at their homes. We found they had good crops of bread-stuff well planted, but not matured. They are not known to have brought to the country any capital except a determination to work with willing hearts and willing hands, and thus establish for themselves a name and a character. In the short time they have been there they have cut down, cleared up, and planted, until there is not a lot to be seen in town not under cultivation. For example, the leader, Mr. Alonzo Hoggard, has had no aid but four small sons, and with them alone he has planted out five thousand coffee trees, and is cultivating one-and-a-half acres in potatoes, two acres in cassava, four acres in rice, one-half acre in eddoes, besides many garden vegetables. Mr. Solomon York, another of that company, has nearly three thousand coffee trees growing, many bearing, and a large supply of cassavas, eddoes, and other bread-stuff. Mr. Rennels has also a large lot of coffee growing, some acres of sugar cane, some ginger, and his wife offers to sell a few barrels of Indian corn, the result of her own industry. There are many others doing well, whose farms we had not time to visit.

"We went out one mile beyond to see the company, of which Mr. Jefferson Bracewell was the leader. He commenced cutting down the bush in March, 1872, and, with the assistance of his seven sons, he has cleared up more than thirty acres of land, planted eleven hundred coffee trees, made his large crops of rice, potatoes, and eddoes, so as to supply his own family; imported a sugar-mill, and made his own sugar and syrup last season. He has made a large coffee nursery, and is now tanning some of the best leather used in this country. His wife and daughter spin and weave all the cloth that he and those boys wear, and he has built with his own hands his dwelling-house, store-house, weaving and loom house for his wife, and a house for tanning. Well done, Bracewell! May Liberia obtain many more such braces.

"Mr. Solomon Hill and Mr. June Moore, of the same company,

have each planted seven hundred coffee trees, a large coffee nursery, and have such a supply of potatoes, cassavas, and eddoes, that they have bought no bread-stuff since they came to the country. Mr. Hill has already sold from his crop fifty kroos of clean rice."

AGRICULTURE AND TRADE.

Intelligence from Liberia indicate growth and prosperity, Agriculture is steadily on the increase. "The Republican" announces that "there will be a proportional fair increase of the production of coffee over that of last year. Sugar making is also going on encouragingly. The steam mills on the St. Paul's river of Sharp, Dunbar & Decoursey, Anderson, Washington, Roe, and Cooper, besides the full number of hand and cattle power mills, are doing a good business."

The same paper observes as follows:—"The present is what may be termed a splendid palm-oil season. Our coasting craft are doing a full business. Mr. Sherman (Sherman & Dimery) returned a few days ago in their schooner "Petronilla," with thirty thousand gallons of oil and a quantity of palm-kernels. Messrs. McGill's schooner, under Mr. William Francis Brown, supercargo, has arrived with twenty-two thousand gallons of oil. Mr. Henry Cooper recently paid a visit to the Coast in furtherance of his business. His three coasters, 'Dodo,' 'Samuel Ash,' and 'Apprentice Boy,' have come up with full loads. Mr. Brougham had a boat brought out to him a few days ago. It is about thirteen tons. Three men sailed her from Hamburg. Messrs. McGill's had brought out to them on the steamer 'Benin,' from Liverpool, a coasting craft of fifteen tons. The barque 'Thomas Pope,' to sail for New York to-day, has on board eighty tons of camwood, seven thousand gallons of palm-oil, forty thousand pounds of Liberia coffee, three hundred pounds of ivory, two hundred casks or about one hundred and ten thousand pounds of sugar, also thirty passengers. During the month of April, Captain Marschalk shipped sixteen thousand gallons of palm-oil, one thousand nine hundred bushels of palm-kernels, and other African produce."

President Roberts, in his last annual message, confirms this

information. He says: "The trade and mercantile marine of the Republic have increased, and are still increasing in a ratio scarcely credible. Enterprising merchants are opening new avenues of trade, and are extending their operations, both coastwise and interior, with encouraging prospects of continued success.

Application has been made to the Liberian authorities for permission to establish a telegraph station at Cape Palmas, the cable coming from St. Vincent Island (Cape Verde) on the one side, and from Benguela (South Africa) on the other. The said cable is to extend from St. Vincent to Lisbon, (Portugal,) and thence to New York. This, with the cable also from Brazil to St. Vincent, will place Liberia in direct telegraphic communication with the United States, Europe, South America, and South Africa. The work is begun already by an English company.

STEAM COMMUNICATION.

The commerce of West Africa, constantly augmenting in extent and value, is mostly carried on by steamers owned and controlled by English capitalists and merchants. Fifteen years ago the mails by steam between England and Liberia were monthly; several years later they were increased to semi-monthly; now five steamers every month render this valuable service from Liverpool.

A grand opening is presented for American capital and activity, by the establishment of direct and regular steam communication from New York to Monrovia and Cape Palmas, and along the Coast to the Equator. In view of the rapid development of the resources of that extensive and populous region, and the growing demand for the products of American mechanical industries, an enlightened commercial policy dictates every encouragement to such enterprise, and no time should be lost in inaugurating this measure to secure it.

Captain R. W. Shufeldt, in his dispatch to the Secretary of the Navy, under date of "U. S. Steamer Plymouth, Monrovia, March 26, 1873," says: "Perhaps nothing would add more to the strength and well-being of this Americo-African Republic than the establishment of steam communication between it and the

mother country. — A connection thus sustained would have an important bearing upon our own political and commercial necessities, and create the one thing needful to the progress of this country; for I am fully convinced that immigration, with a moderate amount of capital, is all that is now required to place Liberia upon a permanent footing, and to insure an increasing prosperity.

"This young nation, weak by virtue of its birth and inheritance, is essentially an American outpost upon the confines of barbarism, and it deserves, on this account, the fostering care of the American people. After an interval of twenty-six years since I first visited Monrovia, I do not find as much progress as I had hoped for; but there are no evidences of retrogression, and this is in itself proof that this people had secured too firm a foothold upon African soil ever to be expelled. The idea of Christian civilization is too firmly planted here to be uprooted."

INTERIOR LIBERIA.

The subject of a comprehensive interior policy is engaging the earnest attention of the authorities and leading men of Liberia, and a growing determination is apparent to avail themselves of the vast resources of trade and population on the East. The opening of highways inward from the Coast has been intelligently agitated, for present absolute wants as well as for future probable contingencies. That entire region is represented to be of the highest possible interest. Its healthfulness, its productiveness, the facility with which good roads and railways may be constructed, the large, cultivated and active Mahomedan tribes, having schools, and books, and mosques, all combine to make it one of the most important portions of the West African Continent: presenting a wide and inviting field for the enterprise of the merchant, the settler, and the missionary.

Reports from Liberia mention accessions to the membership of different churches. These reports were accompanied by urgent calls from several of the neighboring kings and headmen to come among them and their people with schools and the Gospel. Gilla Somer, king of the Golah tribe, is stated to have recently visited Monrovia, to obtain, as he said, "a God-man

who will learn my people the religion of Jesus Christ." He offered to give three thousand acres of land, and more, if desired, for the use of schools and missions in his country.

Liberian Christians are not indifferent to these openings, and they declare themselves anxious, if the means were within their power, to press inland with the arts of civilized life and the ordinances of religion. They appeal to their brethren in the United States to help them, and there is a general feeling that the colored people of this country will not be slow to show their interest in the benighted population of the land of their ancestors.

The efforts of Sir Bartle Frere and Sir Samuel Baker in Zanzibar, Eastern Africa, and into the interior, for the suppression of the slave-trade, have been eminently cheering.

Explorations are progressing into various portions of the Continent, and it will not much longer be unknown. Those of the past few years reveal immense tracts of rich and attractive territory, interspersed by lakes and rivers, designed by Providence, it is believed, as seats of a future high civilization.

EDUCATION IN LIBERIA.

The semi-annual reports to June 30th last, of the teachers of the two schools at Arthington and that at Brewerville, supported by this Society from the income of the Graham legacy, show them to have had an average daily attendance of eighty-six scholars, composed mostly of quite young persons of both sexes, and the studies to have been spelling, reading, writing, grammar, arithmetic, and geography, in which encouraging progress was made.

Of the state of education in Liberia, the late Report of the Massachusetts Colonization Society gives the following elaborate account:

"All the missions have schools. Each mission reports its schools to its own Missionary Board. But there is no arrangement by which reports of all the schools are collected at any one centre; nor do they all cover the same period of time. According to the latest information that has reached us, they are as follows:

Missions.	Schools.	Scholars.
Protestant Episcopal.....	20	443
Methodist Episcopal.....	15	450
Baptist	6	42
Southern Baptist.....	7	68
Presbyterian.....	3	41
Lutheran	1	39
	<hr/> 52	<hr/> 1083

"Of these 52 schools, however, 12 report no number of scholars, though some are said to be "well attended." If we suppose them to average 20 each, the whole number will be 1,323. A few private schools may raise the whole number to 1,500.

"To give each child of the civilized population of Liberia four years at school, supposing that population to be 20,000, would probably require an habitual attendance of about 1,600. The number of scholars reported is nearly large enough for that purpose, and authorizes the conclusion that Americo-Liberian children generally have some opportunity for primary school education. But generally the reports do not give the age or sex of the scholars, the constancy of their attendance, the studies pursued, or the progress made.

"There has been a system of common schools in the statute-book of Liberia almost from its first settlement, and several beginnings have been made of putting it in operation. But, for a complication of reasons which it would be difficult to explain so as to do justice to all parties, its operation has never been universal, and it has been often wholly interrupted, and the work of primary education has gone almost wholly into the hands of the missions. And as these missions are wholly independent of each other, each has its own systems, and there is no one system of common schools for the whole Republic except that in the statute-book, which is not in operation.

"To these remarks it is proper to add the following passage from the last annual message of President Roberts:

"In general, our native population is making encouraging advances, under the fostering operations of our civil and religious institutions; and I shall hope that the Legislature will find it within the scope of their pecuniary ability to continue, if not increase, the means of facilitating this desirable work.

Many of the chiefs and headmen of the tribes within our limits are now earnestly importuning the Government to establish schools in their districts, for the instruction of their children in the principles of Cristianity, in the ordinary branches of literature, and in the arts of civilized life.

“In regard to the subject of general education in Liberia, I may only remark, that it is still of paramount importance. And it is a matter of deep regret that, even with the generous assistance of missionary societies in the United States, we are not able to supply the increasing demands for educational facilities in many of our scattered Americo-Liberian settlements. Some of these are wholly without regular schools, and others have schools of such low grade as to scarcely deserve the name of schools. Nothing can be more desirable than that the youth of our country, the whole country, should have placed within their reach the means of acquiring that degree of mental training necessary to make them useful members of society; and also, as far as practicable, to lay such a foundation as will enable them to reach readily those attainments required for the higher duties of life. In this view we have not only to deplore the need of funds to maintain schools, but also the need of efficient teachers to conduct them. No one can doubt that both the Church and the State are now suffering for the want of additional intelligence to aid in advancing the civil and religious institutions of the country. In this connection I have great pleasure in communicating to the Legislature, that that distinguished philanthropist and noble friend of Liberia, Hon. H. M. Schieffelin, who has always felt the liveliest interest in the educational advancement of the Republic, has just created a foundation from which the Government may expect to receive three hundred dollars per annum for the use of common schools. We thank him and the gentlemen who are co-operating with him in this kindness.

“And I may also add here, that we have great cause for thankfulness that a gracious Providence put it into the hearts of our friends in the United States—especially in Massachusetts, the cradle of American literature and science—to establish Liberia College. It stands among us as a beacon light; an important and efficient agency in dispelling the deep gloom

which for so many weary centuries has enveloped the minds of the people of this degraded Continent. It is an incalculable blessing to Liberia and to Africa; it has already prepared a goodly number of young men for usefulness, many of whom are now rendering valuable service as teachers and otherwise in various parts of the Republic. I shall hope that American philanthropy will continue to cherish an enterprise so eminently worthy of Christian sympathy, and will amply endow it for the successful prosecution of the work it is designed to accomplish."

"By this time President Roberts knows that an important step has been taken towards the fulfillment of his hope that the College will be endowed. In February last the Trustees of Donations for Education in Liberia received a donation of \$20,000, to be invested as a permanent fund, the income of which is to be expended in the support of that College. The money was immediately invested, safely and profitably. .

"This generous donation ought to attract attention, and have influence as an example. It was not made in ignorance, or without consideration. The donor, the Hon. Albert Fearing, is well known as a man before whom the claims of the numerous benevolent enterprises of the day are brought, so that he is obliged to consider them and judge of their comparative merits. His duties as a member of the Board of Trustees, from its organization in 1850, and its President since 1855, have given him a thorough knowledge of the condition, wants, and prospective usefulness of Liberia College. He gave \$5,000 in 1864 as a permanent fund for its library, and has given other sums at other times, so that the whole amount of his benefactions is about \$30,000 in cash, besides a large amount of personal labor and valuable time. The testimony of such a donation, from such a source, ought to have a convincing and persuasive influence on those who have wealth which they wish to use for the benefit of mankind.

"Though the management and support of Liberia College is no part of the work of this Society, but of the Trustees of Donations for Education in Liberia, who have founded and sustained it, yet we have an interest in its success, which authorizes and impels us to notice whatever concerns it. The

Republic which this Society is building up indispensably needs the College, that it may be furnished with intelligent citizens to fill the various departments of public life, and especially to carry the light of Christian civilization to its six hundred thousand aboriginal inhabitants, and to the uncounted millions who sit in darkness beyond them. We, therefore, thankfully record every addition to its means of permanency and usefulness."

OUR MISSION.

The facts given in this review, as well as the history of African Colonization from the beginning, demonstrate the incalculable importance and utility of our work as a Society. It was never so important, so necessary, and so promising as now. The extinction of slavery, so far from lessening our obligations to Africa and the colored people, has only enlarged and intensified them. The great purpose of our organization has ever been the establishment of a civilized and Christian nation on the West Coast of Africa, to which, *if they found it to be to their interest*, the colored people of the United States might emigrate, but, which, whether they emigrated to it or not in numbers materially affecting their race here, would be the most powerful agency that man could devise for the civilization and Christianization of Africa. If, while slavery existed, masters manumitted their slaves to remove them to Liberia, to that extent Colonization promoted freedom. Then, however, as now, the great object was the establishment of such a nation in Africa as to-day exists feebly but honorably in Liberia. To increase its numbers, to enlarge its usefulness, to enable it to work out great and good results, is the grand aim of the American Colonization Society.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Receipts and Disbursements of the American Colonization Society, for the year 1873.

Cr.

Dr.

Received Donations	\$15,358 75	Paid Passage and support of Emigrants . . .	\$9,215 16
" Legacies	14,557 47	" Interest on Loans	1,168 49
" Interest on Investments	2,064 93	" For Education in Liberia	480 00
" Investments realized	250 00	" Taxes, Insurance and Repairs of Colonization Building	935 51
" Rents of Colonization Building	2,316 76	" Paper and Printing "The African Repository"	1,601 25
" Subscriptions to "The African Repository"	212 42	" Salaries of Secretaries, Printing Report and Addresses, Stationery, Postages, &c.	4,856 57
" For Education in Liberia	490 50	" Salaries of Agents, Travelling Expenses, Expenses of Auxiliary Societies, &c.	6,431 55
" Returns from Liberia	84 88	" Borrowed money	11,000 00
Balance on hand, January 1, 1873	35,335 71	Disbursements	35,688 53
Receipts	586 31	Balance in Treasury, January 1, 1873	233 49
Total	\$35,922 02	Total	\$35,922 02

The Committee on Accounts have compared the charges on the Books with the vouchers for the year 1873, and find the same correct, with a balance of \$233 49.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 20, 1874.

ALMON MERRIN,
J. W. CHICKERING,
JOSEPH HENRY,

Committee.

FIFTY-SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY.

THE AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY held its Fifty-seventh Annual Meeting, Hon. John H. B. Latrobe, presiding, in the Thirteenth-street Baptist Church, Washington, D. C., on the evening of the 20th January, where a large audience listened to four addresses. Rev. Dr. Samson, of New York, spoke convincingly on the obligations of America to colonize, in Liberia, at the expense of the State, such freedmen as desire to go there. Rev. Dr. Taylor, of Newark, N. J., eloquently treated of the providential aspects and prospects of African colonization. Rev. Dr. Pearne submitted cogent reasons why Christians and philanthropists should give enlarged and continued support to the work of the Society. Rev. Dr. Orcutt followed with some well-considered and appropriate suggestions. The Annual Report, presented on the occasion, is given in the preceding pages. The meeting, which lasted from 7.30 until nearly 10 o'clock, grew in interest up to its close.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS met in the Colonization Building, on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 20 and 21, Hon. Mr. Latrobe in the chair. The sessions were well attended by Life Directors and Delegates from Auxiliary Societies. They were occasions of unusual interest, and it was felt that the prospects of the Society were never more hopeful. Measures were taken to arouse an increased interest in the Christian civilization of Western Africa, by helping thither intelligent and religious colored people from this country to strengthen the expanding Republic of Liberia.

MINUTES OF THE AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

WASHINGTON, D. C. *January 20, 1874.*

The Annual Meeting of the American Colonization Society was held this evening, commencing at 7½ o'clock, in the First Baptist Church, Thirteenth street, near G; the President, Hon. John H. B. Latrobe, in the chair.

The Divine blessing was invoked by the Rev. James H. Cuthbert, D. D., Pastor of the Church.

Brief introductory remarks were made by the President of

the Society; and the Fifty-seventh Annual Report of the Society was presented by the Corresponding Secretary, who also read extracts therefrom.

The Corresponding Secretary read letters from the Rt. Rev. William B. Stevens, D. D., Philadelphia, December 11; and from Hon. Reverdy Johnson, Baltimore, December 26, 1873, expressing regret that paramount duties and prior engagements would prevent them from addressing the Society at this time, and of their good wishes for its progress and success.

Addresses were delivered by the Rev. George W. Samson, D. D., of New York; Rev. William J. R. Taylor, D. D., of Newark, N. J.; Rev. Thomas H. Pearne, D. D., of Cincinnati; and Rev. John Orcutt, D. D., of New York.

The Society then adjourned to meet to-morrow at 12 m., in the Colonization Building.

The benediction was pronounced by Rev. John K. Converse, of Burlington, Vermont.

COLONIZATION BUILDING,
WASHINGTON, D. C. *January 21, 1874.*

The American Colonization Society met this day at 12 o'clock m., pursuant to adjournment: President Latrobe in the chair.

The minutes of the meeting of last evening were read and approved.

Rev. John Maclean D. D., Almon Merwin, Esq., and Rev. Thomas H. Pearne, D. D., were appointed a Committee to nominate the President and Vice Presidents of the Society for the ensuing year.

On motion of Hon. Peter Parker, it was

Resolved, That the Society returns its grateful acknowledgments to the Rev. George W. Samson, D. D., Rev. William J. R. Taylor, D. D., Rev. Thomas H. Pearne, D. D., and Rev. John Orcutt, D. D., for their very able, eloquent, and impressive addresses, delivered last evening at its Fifty-seventh anniversary meeting, and that they be requested to furnish copies for publication.

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be presented to the pastor, Rev.

James H. Cuthbert, D. D., and to the officers of the First Baptist Church, for their very cordial grant of the use of their Church for our annual meeting held there last evening.

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be given to the choir of the First Baptist Church, for their excellent and acceptable music on the occasion of our Fifty-seventh anniversary meeting.

Rev. Dr. Maclean, chairman of the Committee on Nominations, presented a report nominating and recommending the re-election of the present President and Vice Presidents of the Society, and the following named gentlemen, as additional Vice Presidents, viz: Rev. Randolph S. Foster, D. D., of Ohio; Rt. Rev. William B. Stevens, D. D., of Pennsylvania; Eli K. Price, Esq., of Pennsylvania; Rt. Rev. Gregory T. Bedell, D. D., of Ohio; and Theodore L. Mason, M. D., of New York.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the report be accepted and approved, and that the Society elect the persons nominated by the Committee, as follows:

President.

1853. HON. JOHN H. B. LATROBE.

Vice Presidents.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1833. Moses Allen, Esq., New York. | 1854. Hon. Joseph B. Crockett, California. |
| 1838. Hon. Henry A. Foster, New York. | 1859. Hon. Henry M. Schieffelin, N. Y. |
| 1838. Robert Campbell, Esq., Georgia. | 1861. Rev. John Maclean, D. D., LL.D., N. J. |
| 1838. Hon. James Garland, Virginia. | 1861. Hon. Ichabod Goodwin, N. H. |
| 1840. Hon. Willard Hall, Delaware. | 1861. Hon. William E. Dodge, New York. |
| 1841. Thomas R. Hazard, Esq., R. I. | 1862. Robert H. Ives, Esq., Rhode Island. |
| 1843. Hon. Lucius Q. C. Elmer, N. J. | 1862. Rev. Thomas DeWitt, D. D., N. Y. |
| 1845. Hon. Joseph R. Underwood, Ky. | 1866. Hon. James R. Doolittle, Wisconsin. |
| 1848. Hon. Thomas W. Williams, Conn. | 1867. Samuel A. Crozer, Esq., Pennsylvania. |
| 1849. Rev. Lovick Pierce, D. D., Georgia. | 1869. Hon. William C. Alexander, N. J. |
| 1851. Rev. Robert Ryland, D. D., Ky. | 1869. Hon. Fred. T. Frelinghuysen, N. J. |
| 1851. Hon. Frederick P. Stanton, D. C. | 1869. Rev. S. Irenæus Prime, D. D., N. Y. |
| 1853. Hon. Horatio Seymour, New York. | 1869. Rev. Benj. I. Haight, D. D., N. Y. |
| 1853. Rev. Howard Malcom, D. D., Penn. | 1869. James B. Hosmer, Esq., Conn. |
| 1853. Rev. John P. Durbin, D. D., N. Y. | 1870. Robert Arthington, Esq., England. |
| 1853. Edward McGehee, Esq., Mississippi. | 1871. Hon. Dudley S. Gregory, N. J. |
| 1854. Rev. Edmund S. Jones, D. D., N. Y. | 1872. Rt. Rev. John Johns, D. D., Virginia. |
| 1854. Rev. Matthew Simpson, D. D., Penn. | 1872. Rev. Edward P. Humphrey, D. D., Ky. |
| 1854. Rev. Levi Scott, D. D., Delaware. | 1872. Harvey Lindsley, M. D., D. C. |
| 1854. Rev. Rob't Paine, D. D., Mississippi. | 1873. Hon. Charles S. Olden, New Jersey. |
| 1854. Rev. Thomas A. Morris, D. D., Ohio. | 1874. Rev. Randolph S. Foster, D. D., Ohio. |
| 1854. Rev. Edward R. Ames, D. D., Md. | 1874. Rt. Rev. Wm. B. Stevens, D. D., Pa. |
| 1854. Rev. James C. Finley, Illinois. | 1874. Eli K. Price, Esq., Pa. |
| 1854. Hon. John F. Darby, Missouri. | 1874. Rt. Rev. Gregory T. Bedell, D. D., O. |
| 1854. Rev. Nathan L. Rice, D. D., Missouri. | 1874. Theodore L. Mason, M. D., N. Y. |

The figures before each name indicate the year of first election.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the Annual Report of the Society be referred to the Board of Directors.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the Society do now adjourn, to meet on the third Tuesday in January, 1875, at 7½ o'clock P. M., in such place as the Executive Committee shall designate.

LETTERS FROM DISTINGUISHED MEN.

The next best thing to an address from each of the following named gentlemen, were the letters annexed, written in response to invitations sent them by the Committee to make arrangements for the late Anniversary Meeting of the Society:

FROM REV. DR. HUMPHREY.

LOUISVILLE, KY., November, 21, 1873.

TO HON. PETER PARKER and WILLIAM COPPINGER, Esq:

DEAR SIR: Your favor of the 18th instant is at hand. I am sorry to say that I cannot go to Washington in January, my engagements here and elsewhere forbidding. My visit to the "Colonization rooms" last winter gave me renewed confidence in the wisdom of the plans adopted by the Society, and in the spirit with which they are executed. I feel more inclined to go a second time than I did to go the first time. But I must decline the service now.

Very truly yours,

E. P. HUMPHREY.

FROM BISHOP STEVENS.

PHILADELPHIA, December 11, 1873.

HON. PETER PARKER and WILLIAM COPPINGER, Esq., Committee:

GENTLEMEN: Absence from the city has prevented my replying earlier to your kind invitation to deliver an address at the ensuing Anniversary of the American Colonization Society.

I have tried to bring myself to accept it, but stern duty forbids, and I must reluctantly decline. I feel the deepest interest in the cause, which ought to take hold of the hearts of Christians and statesmen, as one of the great missionary and civilizing agencies of the world; but I shall not be able, consistent with paramount duties, to plead for so admirable a Society next month.

The desire to gratify two such excellent friends as yourselves was a strong motive urging me to go to Washington, as it would be peculiarly pleasant to meet you both again and renew the pleasant associations of the past.

With sincere regards to each of you, I remain, gentlemen, very truly,
yours,

WILLIAM BACON STEVENS.

FROM HON. REVERDY JOHNSON.

BALTIMORE, *December 26, 1873.*

Messrs. PETER PARKER and WILLIAM COPPINGER, Committee, &c., Washington :

GENTLEMEN : I would gladly comply with the request you make of me if I could ; but an engagement which I am forced to fulfill will take me to Philadelphia on the evening of the 20th of the coming month. To have had such an opportunity as you tender me to do whatever I might be able to promote the great moral, political, and Christian ends which your Association is seeking to attain, would be a source of much gratification to me. To spread civilization and Christianity through benighted Africa is a work which must challenge the approval of mankind, whilst to our colored citizens, now, thank God, unshackled by slavery, to establish for themselves a home in which they will be able to exhibit the ability with which nature may have endowed them, without the obstacles of prejudice which caste or color may create, would be to them and to the world an achievement of incalculable value.

Sincerely regretting that I am obliged to decline the request with which you have honored me, and with thanks for the honor, I remain, with much regard, your obedient servant,

REVERDY JOHNSON.

AFRICAN COLONIZATION—ITS CLAIMS.

BY REV. THOMAS H. FEARNE, D. D.

What claims has the American Colonization Society upon the support of Christians and philanthropists ? In this article, nine facts are stated in answer, as follows :

1. For fifty-seven years this Society has had the confidence and co-operation of some of the noblest and best men of two hemispheres. Earnest and distinguished philanthropists in England and in America have wrought together in this great work with no common energy. Philosophers and patriots, statesmen and Christians, have found honor and joy in laboring to promote the objects of this Society. Rev. Dr. Fisk, President of the Wesleyan University, said that "the cause of the Colonization Society is the cause of God." Hon. Henry Clay once said, "Every emigrant to Africa is a missionary, carrying with him credentials in the holy cause of civilization, religion, and free institutions." Finley and Gurley, and Cresson and Bacon, and Hall and M'Lain have consecrated this cause by their connection with it. The earlier residents of the Society were men who stood deservedly high

for their eminent talents and their exalted positions—as Justice Washington, Hon. Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, one of the signers of the Declaration, Ex-President Madison, and Hon. Henry Clay.

2. The Legislatures of several of the States and the Congress of the United States have, by special acts, recognized the usefulness of this Society, and have, in various ways and in repeated instances, given it countenance and assistance.

3. Conferences of Christian ministers and assemblies of ministers and laymen have passed resolutions and adopted reports, recommending and approving the work of this Society. This is true of Annual and General Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, and of other religious bodies. Members, ministers, and bishops of the Protestant Episcopal Church have always taken a leading interest in this work. The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, at its session in 1868, adopted a report, setting forth, in eloquent language, what has been effected in Africa by the American Colonization Society, and stating:

“Last year, with an income of about fifty-eight thousand dollars, the Society sent out (to Africa) six hundred and thirty-three emigrants. Four thousand more are applying for passage. In conclusion, we beg to offer the following resolutions, namely:

“*Resolved*, 1. That we recognize in the American Colonization Society an agency for the building up of a true Christian civilization (in Africa,) and the evangelization of a great continent.

“*Resolved*, 2. That, wishing the Society all success in its labor of love, we commend it to all the friends of religion and human progress.”

The irresistible conclusion from these facts is, that a work which can enlist in its behalf such supporters and advocates must have real merits; that no undeserving cause could secure such a following. Its claims are not less now than formerly. On the contrary, they are much greater.

4. Planting the Colony of Liberia upon the Western Coast of Africa, fifty years ago, the Colonization Society by that means suppressed the slave-trade for a distance of six hundred

miles, and within a district where the slave-trade had been most extensive and prosperous, and also most difficult to suppress. Along this extent of sea-board, the agencies of the Society did more, probably, to suppress that infamous traffic than the combined fleets of Great Britain and the United States.

5. This Society has transported thirteen thousand eight hundred and twenty-one emigrants from the United States to Liberia, who, with one thousand two hundred and twenty-seven sent thither by the Maryland Colonization Society, and five thousand seven hundred and twenty-two recaptured Africans, mostly taken on the high seas by United States war frigates, and sent to Liberia by the United States Government, make up a total of twenty thousand seven hundred and sixty-six sent to that Coast. These, with their descendants, number now, say twenty-five thousand, who are settled there in comfortable circumstances, in a climate congenial to them, upon the most fertile lands, and where, unvexed by the annoyances of prejudice and color-caste, they may assert their manhood, and enjoy the blessings of health and competence.

It may be asserted, without fear of successful denial, that those who have gone to Africa have greatly bettered their condition: that is, the persons who have gone to Liberia are better off than they were before going, and than those who are left in this country. This is the testimony of those Africans who have settled in Liberia. At a public meeting, held in Monrovia, the following was unanimously adopted, namely:

"Whereas, it has been widely and maliciously circulated in the United States of America, that the inhabitants of this colony are unhappy in their condition and anxious to return:

"Resolved, That the report is false and malicious, and originated only in design to injure the colony by calling off the support and sympathy of its friends; that, so far from having a disposition to return, we should regard such an event as the greatest calamity that could befall us."

With this agrees the testimony of those who have visited Liberia, and sojourned there. Hon. Abraham Hanson, Minister Resident and Consul General of the United States to the Republic of Liberia, after a residence of three years therein, speaks in glowing terms of the thrift and prosperity of the

people of that country, and concludes: "Were I a member of the African race, with my knowledge of the tremendous weight that still oppresses them, and of the illimitable field which invites them to Liberia, with its innumerable facilities for comfort, independence, and usefulness, I should gather my family around me, and embark on board the first vessel bound for that distant shore, even if I had to avail myself of the generous aid which the American Colonization Society offers."

6. Under the fostering care of this Society, a Christian nation has been planted in Africa, having free institutions, with an area of sixty thousand square miles, and a population of six hundred thousand. Of these, more than half a million have been rescued from utter savageism, and raised to comparative civilization. This Republic of Liberia has existed for twenty-six years. It holds treaty relations with the leading powers of the world, namely: The Hanseatic States, the Netherlands, Sweden and Norway, Portugal, Belgium, Denmark, Italy, France, Great Britain, Hayti, Brazil, and the United States. Liberia has a growing commerce; schools, seminaries, a college, and fifty or more churches. Three missionary Boards of the United States have, for years, annually expended in that field some \$50,000.

7. In establishing this Republic, the friends of Africa have a wide and effectual door for the successful entrance of Christianity into the heart of the African Continent. They have solved the problem, How is Africa to be redeemed? by an extended and beautiful example of Christian civilization, planted in Africa, and successfully maintained, through the agency of the colored people themselves. Besides opening a door of access to "the regions beyond," and furnishing this instructive example, Liberia makes a convenient base of aggressive operations in those interior regions. Tropical Africa must be redeemed by Africans. White men cannot do it. Liberia, a Christian government, administered by colored men, and bordering the intense darkness to be illuminated, is precisely the true point of departure, as well as the base of operations. In this single view of the case, this Society deserves the grateful co-operation of every Christian whose heart yearns for the redemption of Africa.

8. This creation of the Liberian Republic places before the freedmen a grand enterprise, worthy of their highest endeavor. It presents before them a motive which strongly appeals to their higher feelings, their nobler nature. No impracticable ideal is presented; but one whose possibility is assured by what has already been accomplished in Liberia.

Columbus, a white man, discovered an unknown continent, and his name rings over the world and along the ages. Now, let Africans achieve the redemption of a continent, and the uplifting, civilization, and enfranchisement of one hundred and fifty millions of people, whom all others have for centuries combined to brutalize and oppress, and the race will need no defenders nor apologists. It will thus vindicate its own right to stand up, the equal of the proudest and the mightiest.

In a recent lecture on races, Wendell Phillips insists that the black man must carve out his own niche in the temple of fame. With equal eloquence and truth, Mr. Phillips says:

"Suppose there comes a panic over the land, and Vanderbilt loses his forty millions, and the Secretary of the Treasury is driven nearly crazy at the situation, and nobody knows where the storm will stop, and there is not a brain powerful enough to drop the plummet into the profound history of the hour, and say, Here is the panacea! Let a colored man step to the front in such a moment. Perhaps he is worth a quarter of a million: and he says to the astonished world 'Here is the path that will lead you out.' The world says, 'We doubt it.' He says, 'Follow me;' plunges into the path he indicates; the heavens clear up, the waters become clear, and he steps out worth fifty millions from that single speculation. Let colored men do acts like these, and the world will begin to look up a history for you. Until that time, you have to look it up for yourselves. The recognition of the colored race will never come from your claiming it; the world never yields to a claimant. The world worships but one thing—success. Go and do it. Go and do something that nobody else can do. Go and be something that nobody else can be. When you can do that, from that moment the world will recognize your race."

In thus giving the black man the opportunity, the occasion, and the motive to lift up his race to greatness and immortality, the Colonization Society has entitled itself to the gratitude and the support of all races and peoples.

9. African colonization, through the agency of this Society, has, for half a century, being paying, in yearly installments, very small ones, a small part of the mighty debt which the United States owes to Africa for centuries of robbery and spoliation. That debt is incalculable in amount; so great that only God knows its extent. What has been done in sending a few thousands to Africa, and placing them in circumstances comfortable for them, hopeful for Africa, does not equal a tenth part of the interest due and unpaid. To pay the whole debt, principal and interest, would bankrupt the world in sympathy and cash. But we can recognize the obligation; and though our payments may be slow and scant, yet, if God sees that we mean to be honest with Him, that we do not repudiate, that we are trying to pay, He will approve our intention, and bless even our small payments, as he has done the work of the Colonization Society.

AFRICAN NATIONALITY.*

It seems to be a constituent element of the characters of nations and individuals in all ages, climes, and countries, to pride themselves on their ancestry; and as such is the experience of the world, you will, I hope, pardon a Liberian when he asks, on this occasion, "*Whence are we; whither do we tend; how do we feel and reason?*"

1. Whence are we and why are we on the West Coast of Africa? ethnologically, are insolvable enigmas to the lettered world, not to the conjectural, vituperative and maledictive; for, from such voluminous sources, Negro! you have your line of pedigree in the most glaring colors from the morning when the bright stars sang together and the celestial host rolled back the ethereal canopy to behold and wonder at the masterpiece of their Sovereign, up to the present struggling on the West Coast of Africa.

It is certainly a deplorable fact that a race of men scattered around the entire circumference of the earth, extending from the snows of North Europe and America to the equator, and from the equator to the extreme south—alike found dispersed, intermingled, and straggling among savage and barbarous, civilized and enlightened nations, should know nought of their origin. Negro! have no poets ever sung of the martial deeds and warlike exploits, convivial feasts and hallowed passions,

*An Oration delivered before the Mayor, Common Council, and Citizens of Monrovia, July 26th, 1873, being the 26th Anniversary of Liberia's Declaration of Independence. By A. B. KING, B. A., (Liberia College.)

the inconceivable wealth, and the primeval religion of the sable myriads that have breathed on Afric's shores, no historians transmitted the chronicles of the sires to the dusky sons? Alas! your history is enshrouded with more than Egyptian darkness—darkness that not only is felt but confounds.

The most probable hypothesis as to the dispersion of man on the West Coast of Africa, appears to be something like this: That Egypt was the source from which the vast and far-spreading domain of Africa got her population. The progenitors of the first entered at an early date of the second world, and a family from one of the other two brothers subsequently migrated, and by intermixture with the former a distinct race arose. "The dissatisfied, the turbulent, the defeated, and the criminal would, in these earliest times, be thrown off from a settled community in Egypt, to penetrate into the southern and western regions. They would generally die there. Many ages of such attempts might pass before those individuals reached the marshes of the great central plateau, whose constitutions suited that position. Many of them, moreover, would die childless. Early death to the adult, and certain death to the immature, would sweep families off, as the streams bounding from southern Atlas intrude on the desert, and perish there. The many immigrants, to whom all external things were adverse, would be, for generation after generation, until the few remained, whom heat, exposure, toil, marsh-vapor, and fever left as an assorted and acclimated root of new nations." Such, says an American, seems to have been the process in Africa by which a declension of their nature took place from Egypt in two directions; one through the central plains down to the marshes of the Gaboon or the Congo river, where the aberrant peculiarities of the negro seem most developed; and the other along the mountains, by the Nile and the Zambeze, until the Ethiopian sank into the Hottentot. By philological researches and investigations it has been positively proved that the dialects of southern and equatorial Africa bear a very strong resemblance to those of Northern Africa. "The poor, despised Bushman, forming for himself, with sticks and grass, afar among the low-spreading branches of a potea, or nestling at sunset in a shallow hole, amid the warm sand of the desert, with wife and little ones, like a covey of birds, sheltered by some ragged sheep-skins from the dew of the clear sky, has an ancestral and mental relationship to the builder of the pyramids and the colossal temples of Egypt, and to the artists who adorned them! He looks on nature with a like eye, and stereotypes in his language the same conclusions derived from it. He has in his words vivified external things, as they did, according to that form which, in our more logical tongues, we name poetical metaphor. The sun—'Soorees'—is to him a

female, the productive mother of all organic life; and rivers, as Kuis-eep, Gar-eep, are endowed with masculine activity and strength."

In the mythological history of Egypt, we find the demigod Osiris on his grand march to Ethiopia. Later still, we read of the grand Sesostris conquest and over-land route to the Atlantic ocean, did not he meet the Negro on the West Coast of Africa? Heroditus has a passage relating to a gold traffic carried on by the Carthaginians and a people beyond the Straits. There is a curious as well as valuable document found among the remains of the Carthage chronicles, relating to a voyage by a commander named Hanno, sent to found colonies on the West Coast of Africa; but poor us! if his accounts of heated earth and rolling torrents of flame be true, we must have been fire-eaters or endued with salamandrine natures.

During a confused period of Persian, Ptolemaic, Roman, and Alexandrian discoveries, we can lay claim to nothing tangible until the seventh century, when a grand revolution changed the face of the world. The followers of Mohammoud, inspired by fanatical zeal, issued forth from Arabia, startling the whole world, spreading their conquests and settlements even over lands unvisited by the Roman eagle. Their wandering habits, and the use of the camel, an animal expressly formed for sandy deserts, enabled them to overcome insuperable obstacles to others. The Sahara, hitherto an impassable waste, became now a well defined thoroughfare. Soon the muezzin's cry was heard from the mineral regions of Kano, Bornou, Kaugha, and Timbuctoo. After the Moslem conquests and discoveries comes that grand career of maritime enterprise which terminated in the circumnavigation of the African continent and the discovery of a passage to India. It was carried on entirely by the Portuguese, and proceeded by gradual steps, from the rounding of Cape Bojadore, in 1433, by Gilanez to the memorable passage of the Cape of Good Hope, in 1497, by Vascode Gama.

Scarcely two centuries intervening from this important discovery, we find the Dutch, Portuguese, and English flocking to the West Coast of Africa, and dying amidst Africa's abundance, languishing on the grand and picturesque banks of the majestic rivers—"glittering in the morning sun"—fatigued and emaciated amidst Africa's shady groves and valleys, scorched and blackened by a tropical sun. One moment he is thridding the burning sands and parching siroccos of Sahara's waste; the next, seated upon the towering summit of the Atlas, sailing up the never-ending Nile, or gliding down the beautiful Niger.

What sought the white man in the African's land of darkness and superstition? What attracted the proud Caucasian

from his lauded home to Lybia's wastes and deserts? Why this needless expense of lives and money? *Discovery* is the startling answer. Man is soon satiated and tired by sameness and monotony; novelty must enter among the enjoyments of his senses. Like the child and his toys, he stretches out his hands for more. But one of the main reasons that caused these desecrations of our fatherland was an unslacking thirst and greed for gain. The great mineral wealth and natural advantages of the African continent had been highly exaggerated beyond the bounds of truth.

American Negro! manumitted Negro! Liberians! here is about to dawn your beginning! The Caucasian adventurers being balked in their attempts to amass the great wealth which they had been persuaded to believe was strewn over the land, dastard hypocrisy! vain conceit! they now, with an air of philanthropy and benevolence, turn their attention to their dusky brethren. We are going to enslave you, but it is for your benefit. We think it preferable that you should have the air of an enlightened man (though a slave) than roaming among the dreary wilds of Africa; but they forgot that this very roaming about implied freedom, and that nothing is so highly prized by the Ethiopian as freedom; they forgot that he possessed a frame which [was] inured to privation, and that his wants [were] few; they forgot that the wilderness, as the land of his fathers, had attractions and associations for which *nothing* on a foreign shore could compensate. The desert, with all its terrors, had charms for the Negro; it was dear to him as his home, the place of his birth, and the hallowed spot where his kindred lie interred; and all other realms seemed drear and desolate. In the desert he had been planted by a wise and good Providence; he had a nature suited to the climate, and he was happy; for *he was free!* Liberty is sweet to all! Who, then, shall pronounce that in American bondage, the African was better off!

Thus our fathers were taken forcibly from their native land "like dumb-driven cattle," and enslaved for three hundred years in foreign countries, suffering every hardship and calamity which it is possible for human to endure with life. How many thousands sank beneath the burden! how many scrupled not to remove their galling, clanking chains by their own hands—"give me liberty, or give me death!" "By Babel's streams they sat and wept." No God-inspired Moses was reared to lead this unfortunate people forth to "a land flowing with milk and honey."

But glory to the immortal names of a host of magnanimous and benevolent minds! The negro's rights were asserted, champions arose to speak to the mighty Pharaoh—public opinion. God made of one blood all the nations of the earth.

Let thy brother go, were their tenets. By their indefatigable and untiring labors in behalf of the negro, the scheme of emancipation began. In course of time these manumitted slaves began to multiply. Seeing their thriftiness, handicraft, and surprising imitateness exhibited under that precious boon—freedom, they argued great things for the negro, if he could be returned to his fatherland. Under this conviction, philanthropy and benevolence sent forth men to spy a land for the negro, where he might show to the world his undeniable unity and kindred to his more fortunate brothers. Liberia was founded. The negro was reshipped to his home—

“Home again from a foreign shore.”

After being trained for twenty-five years by a benevolent institution in the art of government, we, claiming to be a free, sovereign, and independent people, admitting no superior but what circumstances and conditions had made, began our career as a nation on the 26th day of July, 1847. With what yearning and longing hearts had not our fathers looked forward to this day? It came, and they were found equal to the task of upholding this young infant Republic.

I have endeavored briefly to show you from whence came we as a nation. And while we are still assembled between these walls, may we take to our bosoms what great hardships and difficulties our fathers suffered and endured in order to insure to their sons and daughters a home, a country! May we leave this assembly with feelings akin to the pioneers for God, for Liberia, for Africa!

II. Whither do we tend? Where nations have for centuries passed through the varied stages of prosperity and decline, there will necessarily be found men, bulwarks of the State, who have borne the heat and burden of the day, capable of telling their contemporaries whether they will have cause to hope for prosperity or to fear decline in the future. It requires a man whom the world calls a statesman of noble forecast and a far-seeing mind to read a nation's destiny. It is he who has given his mind and body to his country; he who has worn out his life in anxiety and solicitude for the welfare of his native land; he who has so immolated himself on his country's altar as to have acquired a species of prophetic character as a reward for his diligent service that can ascend “Pisgah and view the landscape o'er.” Such a man can tell his son what sort of a country he will leave for him. Such a man dies with a joyful or despondent bosom. Joyful, because he beholds away in the dim, obscured future his native land arising to all that he could wish her, “great, glorious, and free;” despondent and listless, because he finds at last he has labored for nought; he sees that his life-long aspirations are doomed to disappoint-

ment, his country's sun is setting. But for all that, we will venture a remark or so. There is an old expression, "straws show which way the wind blows." If we cannot, with propriety, tell you of our future, we can at least tell you of our present, and entreat you to take a long look ahead for those who shall come after you; for is it not man's true mission on earth to labor for those who shall come after him? The man for his son; the present generation for posterity? Yes, we die that others may live. And he who is truly wise and solicitous for the future welfare of his offspring will endeavor to pave the way to prosperity and happiness for them before leaving this world.

So it becomes you who hold within your grasp the destiny of this infant Republic to take heed to what you do. Have you preserved untarnished the legacy entrusted to you? Have you added to its importance, or dimmed its pristine lustre? Are you about to transmit to your sons an institution of which they can boast?—a country which they can love?—a land for which they can die? If so, the *old day dreams* will be surely realized. Liberia will then be the home of the brave and free. If not, God only knows where we will bring up. If you have proven unworthy of your weighty responsibilities, you have no extenuating circumstances for your conduct. You will then deserve the everlasting execrations of posterity for having tampered with the negro's cause, for having misguided our national plant, warped its youth, and probably destroyed its once destined manhood.

Oh! ye who are so anxious to receive a nation's gifts from the ballot-box, poor and insignificant as ours are, how much better would it be if you would reflect upon the magnitude of the responsibilities attendant on said gifts. Liberia is in its nascent, embryotic state. You are acting for nations countless and yet unborn. The land of Ethiopia is to be born again! Africa and her waste places are to be made glad. There is yet wanting a crowning stone in the great building of nations. Unto us it is permitted to hew, polish, and convey this stone. Shall we, then, as a nation, prove recreant to this, our great trust, and give occasion for further scandal and contumely to be heaped upon the negro? Blot not the fair page of the about-to-be history of the negro.

III. Would that I could convey to you my idea of the nobleness and greatness of the minds of the Pilgrim Fathers! They came to Africa with no sordid or self-aggrandizing motives. They left a land of civilization and light, but of oppression and injustice to the black man, for a land of superstition, darkness, and heathenism, animated by no motive other than that which had been excited in their bosoms by the divinity of liberty. Having once tasted of this delicacy, however spar-

ingly, it transforms the man; he is no longer contented with the crumbs that fall from the table; he is satisfied only with being an acknowledged and respected guest at the feast. Thus our fathers, with God and liberty before them as beacons and incentives, unlearned, and, worse still, liberated slaves, re-entered the wilds of Africa to erect a rude temple to this divinity, where their sons and daughters might worship and feast. To this end they suffered and endured all things. To this end they labored and died. Have you followed in their wake? Suit the means to the end, and we shall have a happy and prosperous country, if not a great and glorious one.

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